

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: HOME LIBRARY ENCYCLOPEDIA WRAP-UP

REF : BELGRADE 5373

SUMMARY: FOCUS OF REACTION CENTERS ON THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MISINFORMATION ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA INSULTING THE PERSONALITY OF THE PRESIDENT AND DENIGRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY DURING THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO LINK THE USG TO THIS ARTICLE AND CRITICISM OF IT HAS MOSTLY BEEN CONFIRMED TO ATTACKING THE INACCURACIES AND POINTING UP REMARKABLY PRESISTENT IGNORANCE OF CONTEMPORARY YUGOSLAV HISTORY.

2. OF THE 97 RECEIPIENTS, MOSTLY LIBRARIES, 36 HAVE REACTED. SEVENTEEN PROTESTED, AND FOUR INDICATED THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO BE FUTURE RECEIPIENTS OF DONATED BOOKS. TEN SETS OF ENCYCLOPEDIA WERE RETURNED WITH NO COMMENT. FOUR OTHER INSTITUTION SENT LETTERS ACCOMPANYING THE BOOKS ACKNOWLEDGING THE CPAO'S LETTER OF APOLOGY. THE POST EVEN RECEIVED THREE LETTERS FOR THANKS FOR THE ENCYCLOPEDIAS. ONE INSTITUTION RETURNED BOTH THE

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ENCYCLOPEDIA AND THE POST'S LETTER OF APOLOGY.

3. WHEN WE REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENDED, CPAO QUICKLY SENT OUT LETTERS OF APOLOGY TO ALL THE RECEIPIENTS, AFFIRMING THAT PRESIDENT OF YUGOSLAVIA ENJOYED THE HIGHEST RESPECT OF THE USG, AND VIGOROUSLY DISASSOCIATING USG FROM ARTICLE CONTAINED IN VOLUME NINE.

4. CPAO ALSO APOLOGIZED AT FEDERAL COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION, AND WE THINK THESE TWO ACTION BLUNTED WHAT OTHERWISE MIGHT HAVE SWELLED INTO A FULL-BLOWN PROTEST.

5. AS IT WAS, ARAJEVO'S DAILY OSLOBODJENJE ON OCTOBER 9 CARRIED A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE MANAGER OF A REGIONAL LIBRARY, WHICH SAID IN PART, "DATA ABOUT THE LIFE AND REVOLUTIONARY PATH OF COMRADES TITO WERE COMPLETE FABRICATIONS DENIGRATING OUR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AND INSULTING BOTH THE PERSONALITY OF THE PRESIDENT AND OUR HISTORY.

6. OSLOBODJENJE SAID IN AN EDITORIAL DATED OCTOBER 11, "THE ABSURDITY OF THE 'FACTS(PRESENTED IN THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THIS DIRECT QUOTATION. TITO BECAME A GUERILLA FIGHTER IN THE ILLEGAL YUGOSLAV ARMY CALLED THE CHETNIKS." THE EDITORIAL ADDS, "WHEN THIS IS READ BY A YUGOSLAV WHO HAS LOST 1,700,000 BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE WAR, WHOSE FATHERLAND WAS BURNT DOWN AND DEVASTATED BY ACTS OF NAZI SAVAGERY, WHO KNOWS THAT THE COMMUNISTS AROUSED THE COUNTRY TO THAT FIGHT AND THAT ITS INHABITANTS ACHIEVED VICTORY ALONE, THEN THAT YUGOSLAV WOULD BE DISGUSTED BY SUCH STORIES AND THOROUGHLY INSULATED. THIS IS NOT JUST A YUGOSLAV FEELING BUT ONE HELD BY ALL WHO RESPECT TRUTH".

7. ON OCTOBER 13 TV SARAJEVO'S 10 P.M. NES REPORTED THAT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE LCY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLACED ON ITS AGENDA A DDISCUSSION OF EXTERNALLY PUBLISHED MATERIALS DEALING WITH YUGOSLAVIA. THE U.S. WAS CITED AS A COUNTRY WHERE SLADEROUS HISTORICAL DISTORTIONS ARE SOMETIMES WRITTEN ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S WAR-TIME HEROES AND REVOLUTION. THE FOLLOWING EVENING SARAJEVO'S 7:30 P.M. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEWS REPORTED THAT AT A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY REPUBLIC LCY PRESIDENT BRANKO MIKULIC, FURTHER EXAMPLES OF DISTROTIONS OF EVENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING WORLD WAR II, AS PUBLISHED IN THE WEST, WERE PRESENTED.

8. POST HAS INSTITUTED SCREENING PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO PREVENT SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE. SILBERMAN

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